

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for treating a fertilized egg of a bird, comprising injecting, into a fertilized egg after start of incubation, a solution comprising amino acids which determine the nutritive value of proteins in said fertilized egg, wherein said solution comprising amino acids further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a nutritional supplement other than said amino acids, a vaccine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 19 of incubation.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 14 of incubation.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said solution comprising amino acids is a mixed solution of amino acids having a composition which is almost the same as the amino acid composition in said fertilized egg before the start of incubation.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method for hatching a fertilized egg of a bird, comprising hatching a fertilized egg after start of incubation treated according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 3.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for increasing the body weight of a chick at hatch, comprising injecting, into a fertilized egg after start of incubation, a solution comprising amino acids which determine the nutritive value of proteins in said fertilized egg, wherein said solution comprising amino acids further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a nutritional supplement other than said amino acids, a vaccine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 19 of incubation.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 14 of incubation.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein said solution comprising amino acids is a mixed solution of amino acids having a composition which is almost the same as the amino acid composition in said fertilized egg before the start of incubation.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for increasing the hatchability of a fertilized egg of a bird, comprising injecting, into said fertilized egg after start of incubation, a solution comprising amino acids which determine the nutritive value of proteins in said fertilized egg,

wherein said solution comprising amino acids further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a nutritional supplement other than said amino acids, a vaccine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 19 of incubation.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 14 of incubation.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein said solution comprising amino acids is a mixed solution of amino acids having a composition which is almost the same as the amino acid composition in said fertilized egg before the start of incubation.

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): A fertilized egg of a bird after start of incubation, said egg being treated according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 3.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A bird hatched from a fertilized egg after start of incubation, said egg being treated in accordance with the method according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of preparing a treated fertilized egg, said method comprising injecting, into a fertilized egg after start of incubation, a solution comprising amino acids which determine the nutritive value of proteins in said fertilized egg, wherein said solution comprising amino acids further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a nutritional supplement other than said amino acids, a vaccine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 19 of incubation.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 14 of incubation.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 19 to 21, wherein said solution comprising amino acids is a mixed solution of amino acids having a composition which is almost the same as the amino acid composition in said fertilized egg before the start of incubation.

Claim 23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of preparing a bird chick, said method comprising hatching a treated fertilized egg, wherein said treated fertilized egg is prepared by a method comprising injecting, into a fertilized egg after start of incubation, a solution comprising amino acids which determine the nutritive value of proteins in said fertilized egg, wherein said solution comprising amino acids further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a nutritional supplement other than said amino acids, a vaccine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 19 of incubation.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein said fertilized egg is a chicken egg on days 13 to 14 of incubation.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 24 to 26, wherein said solution comprising amino acids is a mixed solution of amino acids having a composition which is almost the same as the amino acid composition in said fertilized egg before the start of incubation.

Claim 28 (canceled).